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Toledo '88



The Glass City

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Cover photo by Paul Vernon

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Panda graphic courtesy of the Toledo Zoo.



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New management reviews Portside

By Julie Wallace

Although a new company will be managing Portside, no immediate changes for the marketplace are planned, a company representative said.

Shari Martin, corporate retail marketing director of the Webb Companies, the new management of Portside, said the marketplace is being carefully studied before any changes are implemented.

"We have just taken over (at Portside), so we are evaluating and reviewing Portside's systems.

"It will be 20 to 30 days before a development program will be created," Martin said.

A development program, Martin said, would spell out plans the company has for improving the operations of the marketplace.

Two weeks ago, George Haigh, president and chief executive officer of Trustcorp, Inc., a Toledo firm that was the main financier of the marketplace, announced that both Portside and Hotel Sofitel were suffering from financial problems.

At a press conference, Haigh said because of the problems, new management companies were being cho-

sen for both operations.

The Webb Companies holds its main office in Lexington, Ky., but maintains a Toledo branch, Martin said.

No company has been chosen yet to manage Hotel Sofitel, a Trustcorp official said.

Martin said before any changes are planned for Portside, the marketplace will be examined from many different angles.

"We have to look at all aspects of the marketplace," she said. "Leasing, marketing and the management are some examples."

One important feature that will be carefully studied, she said, is the tenant mix of the marketplace.

Tenant mix, she explained, is the types of stores in the marketplace. A good tenant mix is one that reaches all types of customers, she said.

Lots Welch, marketing director of Portside, said the Portside currently offers a "specialized" retail market.

"Our clientele want quality items with that special touch," Welch said. "Our specialty merchants are definitely attempting to address a specific market."

To decide on possible changes for the marketplace, Martin said per-



Photo by Paul Vernon

Portside, under new management, hopes to maintain the same variety of shops it has in the past.

formance of the current management staff will also be evaluated.

"It's not to say we are going to

make any changes, but we need to look at what is being done and what needs to be done," Martin said.



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The Toledo Zoo

'88

Variety is spice of Toledo Zoo

By Deborah Kennedy

Lions and tigers and bears, Oh my! Lions and tigers and bears, Oh my!

TOLEDO — And seals, and elephants, and hippos, and monkeys... are just a few of the animals to be seen at the Toledo Zoo.

Spring is here and the weather is perfect for a quick trip up the road to one of the nation's best zoos.

The Zoo, which began as one woodchuck in a cage in Wallbridge Park, has grown to include nearly 30 acres, 12 major buildings, and 2,000 animals of 400 different species.

Betsy Warner Clark, spokesperson for the Zoo, said the interest created by the one woodchuck convinced the city to develop a park strictly for the exhibition of wild animals. The city retained ownership and operation of the Zoo until 1982 when the Toledo Zoological Society took over proprietorship.

"Though (the zoo is) considered one of the best in the nation I can't say where we are ranked. Comparing zoos is a little like comparing apples and oranges," Clark explained. "It just can't be done, there are too many factors to be considered."

Some of the features the Toledo Zoo offers are an African Savanna, "Hippoquarium," museum of natural sciences, the Diversity of Life participatory exhibit, and coming soon, the

first Panda exhibit in the Midwest since 1950.

A fairly recent addition to the Zoo, the African Savanna provides a realistic African setting in which to view elephants, giraffes, rhinos and other animals from the continent. Both predators and prey share the savanna and are separated by hidden barriers but appear to roam freely.

The "Hippoquarium" is the only one of its kind in the United States.

"It seems that no matter what a person's age is there is something to interest them at the zoo. Everyone always loves to come and see their favorite animals."

Betsey Warner Clark, spokesperson, Toledo Zoo

The exhibit allows visitors to observe the hippos underwater — an important feature since hippos spend most of their days underwater.

The museum of natural sciences includes exhibits of Quetzalcoatlus (the largest flying reptile), a photographic history of the Zoo, and a Health-Science display.

Participatory exhibits have become increasingly popular in the last couple years and the Diversity of Life ex-

hibit has proven to be just as successful. The display is designed to encourage interaction through sight and touch using microscopes, oscilloscopes, living animal displays and animal skeletons.

Though most of the Zoo's 750,000 yearly visitors are families and school children, Clark feels there is a lot for college students to see and do at the park.

"It seems that no matter what a person's age there is something to interest them at the Zoo. Everyone always loves to come and see their favorite animals," Clark explained. "The Zoo is a great place to come when to escape the dorms."

Other attractions that University students may appreciate are the food, botanical gardens and the summer concert series in the amphitheatre.

Concerts scheduled for this summer are Howie Mandell on June 4, Dan Fogelberg on July 20, and Gordon Lightfoot on Aug. 19. Clark said previous concerts at the Zoo have been a tremendous success. Chicago sold out last summer and Anne Murray performed to a near capacity crowd. Admission price is \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children ages 2 to 11. The Zoo is open year round from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. except for Christmas, New Year's and Thanksgiving days. The park is 30 minutes from Bowling Green on Route 25.





Crowds gather around to see a mountain lion at the Toledo Zoo (above) and the sea otter (left). With warmer weather approaching, many students may trek to the zoo to see the various exhibits and displays. The long-awaited panda bears are expected to arrive May 15 and stay for about 100 days. One of the best zoos in the nation, the Toledo Zoo is open year-round except Christmas, Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

Photos by Paul Vernon



Toledo catches 'Pandamanium'

By Deborah Kennedy

TOLEDO — No one would have ever believed so much excitement could be had over two black and white balls of fur, but for Toledoans the expected May arrival of two great pandas from China has brought about a touch of "Pandamanium."

This "Pandamanium" has workers at the Toledo Zoo busy building a new enclosure for the bears and new entrance gates to provide for the expected increase in visitors during the pandas 100-day stay at the zoo.

The average number of visitors to the zoo is expected to increase from about 6,000 to 8,000 a day to 10,000 during the panda exhibit.

Betsy Warner Clark, Toledo Zoo spokesperson, said the pandas are expected to arrive May 15 if all negotiations with

the Chinese officials go as planned.

"The rumors of the Michigan State Fair having an agreement with the Chinese for pandas with the same names as our's are just that — rumors," Clark said. "We really aren't too worried about the competition for visitors if Michigan receives pandas as well. We believe our visitors are from a different geographic area and will stop here before driving all the way to Detroit. Besides, we offer gorillas and elephants and hippos as well."

An extra \$2 for adults and \$1 for children ages 2 to 11 will be charged to see the pandas. The money collected will fund panda conservation efforts in China.

Zoo officials also plan to open the park on Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. for groups of 20 or more to view the pandas.

Mud Hens have high '88 hopes

By Tim Maloney

MAUMEE — The field at Lucas County Stadium was underwater two Thursdays ago, unplayable from a full day of rain. The stands and press box were empty — a lone field maintenance worker was pushing a wheelbarrow out behind the left-centerfield wall.

The Mud Hens were in New York, playing their season opener against Syracuse. Eric King, the 1986 rookie of the year for the Detroit Tigers and now the Hens' ace, was the starting pitcher.

King or one of his teammates took the mound in Lucas County Stadium last Thursday when the Hens played the Tidewater Tides in their home-opener.

The team is opening what Assistant General Manager Jim Rohr thinks is going to be a very good year.

"We have experience, power, speed and pitching. Seven of our ballplayers have played in the major leagues."



Photo by Paul Vernon

The seats at the Toledo Mud Hen's stadium are empty here, but with the advent of Mud Hen's season they will soon be filling. The stadium is part of the Lucas County Recreation Center, which provides entertainment to baseball fans of all ages.

The new manager has also been in the major leagues. He is Pat Corrales, who started last season as the manager of the Cleveland Indians. He was fired when the Tribes' high hopes for a pennant were dashed by a last-place start.

"When they (the Indians) let him go, he said down at the winter meetings that he wanted to manage," Rohr said.

See MUDHENS, page 7.

Baseball hall amuses cheaply

By Tim Maloney

MAUMEE — Thomas Eakin has spent years adding uniforms, autographed balls, bats and other baseball memorabilia to his personal collection.

For one dollar, a visitor to the Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame can check out what Eakin has accumulated.

The Hall of Fame is located adjacent to the front gate at the Lucas County Stadium, home of the Toledo Mud Hens. One might walk in before or after a Hens' game and see the hat Sparky Anderson wore when the Big Red machine won the World Series or sit in an original bleacher seat from Cleveland Municipal Stadium.

The Hall of Fame and Lucas County Stadium are about a 20-minute drive from Bowling Green. An easy route to take is north on Route 25 to the intersection with Route 24 in Maumee, where you should turn right. Then turn left on Key Street and the stadium will be to the right.

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Packo's 'dog'-gone fun

By Jeff Batdorf

"Where Man Bites Dog," is the slogan of the world-famous Tony Packo's Cafe where athletes, movie stars, and politicians have come to enjoy the food; especially the hot dogs.

The business was started in 1932 by Tony and Rose Packo and has passed down through the family, according to Nancy Packo Horvath, daughter of Tony Packo.



Photo by Paul Vernon

The world-famous Tony Packo's Cafe, located in Toledo, is known for its hot dogs and other gourmet items.

Horvath said the recipe for the food came from her mother and father who became interested in the restaurant business because of her grandparents who were "excellent cooks" and who cooked a lot for their church functions.

Besides food, Tony Packo's offers entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights by the Cakewalkin' Jazz Band who will be celebrating 20 years of performing at Tony Packo's on July 4, according to Horvath.

"It's a fun place to be," Horvath said.

A 1976 episode of M.A.S.H. sparked immediate interest in the restaurant when actor Jamie Farr talked about it and the hot dogs as the show was being broadcasted nationwide, according to Horvath.

"(The reference) made us instantly, nationally famous," she said.

The name of the restaurant was written into six other scripts, including the final episode. Horvath said this helped to increase business.

Farr used the name of the restaurant in the first place because his character, Maxwell Klinger, was supposedly from Toledo. Farr simply incorporated his experiences of growing up in Toledo into the character, Horvath said.

"He and his friends would come

into the restaurant to have hot dogs and Stroh's beer," she said.

Celebrity visitors have also made the restaurant famous across the country. Burt Reynolds, Zsa Zsa Gabor, former President Jimmy Carter, Walter Mondale, and boxer, Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini have all had a bite of Tony Packo's cuisine.

Many celebrities have autographed hot dog buns which are displayed along the walls of the restaurant. Horvath said that they used to use real hot dog buns, but (the buns) started falling apart. Now the restaurant uses replicas of hot dog buns, made out of foam and paint. Reynolds was the first star to sign a bun back in 1972.

A family run business, the Packo's take care of all the marketing and sales, public relations, cooking and advertising, she said. Eventually the family hopes to expand into national supermarket and restaurant chains, but "I'll leave that decision up to my son and brother," Horvath said.

There are two places in the Northwest Ohio area where "Packomania" can get their favorite food. One location is the original Tony Packo's located in East Toledo, 1902 Front St. The second opened a few years ago in the Toledo suburb of Sylvania, and is located at 5827 Monroe St.

MUDHENS

Continued from p. 6

The Mud Hens will play 15 home games before the end of finals week. Tickets are \$4 for box seats, \$3 for reserved and \$2.50 for general admission. Parking is free.

Lucas County Stadium is about a 20-minute drive from Bowling Green. You can get there by going north on Route 25 until you reach Route 24 in Maumee, where you should turn right. Then turn left on Key Street and the stadium will be on your right. Home games start at 7 p.m.

The Mud Hens offer promotions such as 25-cent night on April 22, when hot dogs, Pepsi, pop corn and cotton candy all go for a quarter.

"So the students could come up and get in for \$2.50 and bring another \$2.50 and stuff themselves," Rohr said. "It's a good evening's entertainment and it's close."

The Mud Hens play in the International Division of the Triple-A Alliance League.

"Triple-A is the next step to the big leagues," Rohr said. "Talent-wise, it is very close. Seven of our players have big-league experience."

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